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ASKing Point

is a bi-monthly communication on behalf of ASK Network International. It is an invitation to join the network of prayer throughout the nations, ASKing and agreeing regarding key issues on God's heart. It is a tool for prayer, a place for testimony to God's faithfulness in answering, and a gift of worship to the Living God.

www.ASKnetwork.net

ASKing for Refugees


Love your neighbor as yourself. Mark 12:31

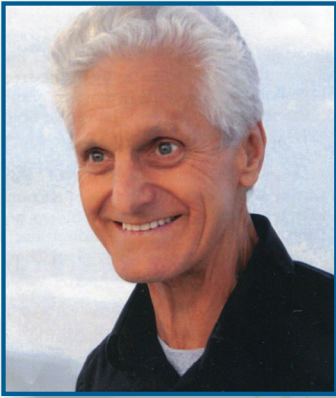
As ASK Europe gathered in Ohrid, Macedonia this September, it was in a continental context of mass migration. Thousands upon thousands of men, women and children from strife-ridden Syria were flooding across European national borders by any means available in an attempt to find refuge. They still are. The ASK gathering brought together representatives from ten different European nations, several of whom had themselves once been migrants. They came to ASK for Europe with its rich variety of nations. Understandably different perspectives were presented, pondered and sympathized with. It became increasingly obvious that this mass movement of needy people is a multi-faceted problem eliciting differing responses, even amongst Christians. These views appear to be at variance with one another, but are in fact two sides of the same coin.

It is the Christian's responsibility to love their neighbor, to offer hospitality to the stranger, to share what we have with those who have nothing, and even to give a glass of water in Jesus' name. We hope that many are doing all of these.

A tension exists, however, that is best brought to the Lord in prayer. It is also our responsibility as disciples of Jesus to share the gospel and advance the purposes of the Kingdom of God. Europe is unique as a continent in its long history of Christianity. Yet today many of its beautiful cathedrals have been described as "empty cradles". The flame of faith needs to be rekindled in this continent where the population is an aging one with a falling birthrate, where the economy of some nations is at risk and the Euro slightly weakened. Many of the refugees, but not all, are Moslem with higher birth rates than most peoples in Europe. Concern exists amongst some that Europe does not have the resources to absorb this tsunami of need, both practically and spiritually. It is a time to be on our knees for Europe.

ASK with fervency for:

- Europeans who love Jesus to reach out to their new neighbours in His name, in love. '...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' *Matthew 25:34-36, 40*
- Relief for all refugees as they desperately need accommodation, food and water. But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. Arise, Lord, do not let mortals triumph; let the nations be judged in your presence. *Psalms 9:18-19*
- Protection of women and children who are at particular risk in migratory situations. Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. *Psalms 82:3-4*
- For this moment of history to be an opportunity for the gospel to be shared. Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace; may the poor and needy praise your name. *Psalms 74:21, John 14:21*
- For wisdom and unity in purpose and action between European governments. *1 Timothy 2:1-2* 



Tribute to Reverend Dr. Graeme Coad

December 18, 1936 - September 29, 2015
ASK North America Continental Director

*Those who are wise shall shine
Like the brightness of the firmament,
And those who turn many to righteousness
Like the stars forever and ever. (Daniel 12:3 NKJV)*

Although it is hard to find words that adequately describe Graeme Coad it is easy to pay tribute to him. He was dearly loved in ASK Network. We esteemed him highly in the Lord as a living example of one who sought first the Kingdom of God in all he did. He was a man of praise, prayer, and power. He was characterized by both the zeal of the Lord and the joy of the Lord. He pastored all of us through his love, wisdom, teaching and ready prophetic word. We will miss his strong leadership amongst us. However, as he and Beverley modeled so well a marriage consecrated to unity in ministry, we know his influence will continue with us through Beverley in her ongoing position as North American Director.

We thank God for our beloved brother Graeme, for his victorious life of faith, particularly in the last twenty years granted to him beyond medical prognosis, during which he helped shape and guide ASK Network in its formative years. We are deeply indebted to him.

This humorous cartoon perhaps best conveys his passion for the gospel to reach both the nations and generations that he loved. We know that by the grace of God Graeme accomplished much: many churches planted and built up, many witnessed to and led to the Lord, many baptized in the Spirit, many prayed over, many healed and delivered, many prophesied over all because of Graeme's faithfulness. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

For a fuller report go to the blog on the ASK USA website:
www.asknetworkusa.net/blog/

If you are interested in viewing Graeme's memorial service you may access it on YouTube. Type in Graeme Coad Memorial.



ASK Network News

ASK Network gathers in Macedonia

In late September, individuals from ten nations gathered in Ohrid, Macedonia to ASK for Europe. In 2012 God gave a vision (in Macedonia!) of an aqueduct supported in each European nation by a pillar. The water spoke of the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, rivers of living water that will flow from the heart of whoever believes in Jesus (John 7:38). That seed flowered into a title, "I have called you friends" (John 15:15) — even the names of those to invite. Spain, France, Switzerland, Romania, Macedonia, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Croatia and England were represented in Ohrid, some 2 hours from Skopje, the birthplace of Mother Theresa and capital of Macedonia.

The purpose was to listen to one other, to pray for the church in each nation represented and to pray for each other. What a privilege to support and encourage people who shoulder great responsibility in these nations. It is humbling and exciting to report that God graciously answered our ASKing. Together, we ASKed God to deepen existing friendships and birth new ones and that we might experience unity in diversity, for those assembled came from very different backgrounds and experiences.

Throughout our time together there was a sense of the intimate presence of God. Old friendships were nourished and new ones born, and we experienced something of what it means to be one (Jesus' prayer in John 17), and saw the glory given by the Father to the son because of love (17:24). We believe ASK has been planted in mainland Europe, in the nation first reached by the gospel in about AD50 when Paul found the place of prayer in Philippi — and the water is flowing as communication between those gathered continues.

We're asking 'Where to next Lord?' 

ASKing for the Nations



LEBANON

Unreached People Group:

ALAWITE OF LEBANON

Population: 116,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Arabic

Background

The Alawite live in Syria, Turkey, Israel and Lebanon. To outsiders, they identify as Muslim. In practice, Alawite follow a secretive brand of extremist Shi'a Islam — so secret, that many do not actually know their group's beliefs. They don't follow Islamic practices like praying five times a day or fasting during Ramadan, unless doing so helps them avoid persecution from mainline Muslims. Half of Alawites in Lebanon live in Tripoli, and they are frequently engaged in conflict and violence with the Sunni Muslim population there. Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, drug addiction and poor medical care are all major challenges facing the Alawite in Lebanon. There has been little to no Christian outreach to the Alawites in Lebanon.

ASK...that Alawite immigrants in Lebanon would experience the love, mercy and care of God through the hospitality of strangers. Ask that laborers would reach out to the Alawite in Lebanon with the good news of the Gospel. (Isaiah 25, Luke 10:1-9)

Located in the heart of the Middle East, Lebanon sits on the Mediterranean Sea and is bordered by Israel and Syria. Because of its location at the crossroads of Middle Eastern civilization, Lebanon has long been a country of rich history and diversity all of which have greatly influenced its literature, music and even cuisine.

Lebanon is the most religiously diverse country in the Middle East with approximately 27% Sunni, 27% Shi'ite, and 40% Christian (predominantly Maronite Catholic and Greek Orthodox) and significant, influential minority groups including Druze and Armenian. While many Lebanese are deeply religious, others hold a more secular view. For over seventy years, Lebanon has required that the president be Maronite Christian, the speaker of the parliament, Shi'ite, the prime minister Sunni, and the deputy prime minister and deputy speaker Greek Orthodox.

During the midst of regional conflict beginning in the 1940s, over 100,000 Palestinians were not permitted to re-enter Israel. Today there are upwards of 400,000 Palestinian refugees remaining in limbo in Lebanon who live predominantly in large, impoverished camps. From 1975 to 1990, civil war broke out between coalitions of Christian, the PLO, Druze and Muslim militias. The war ended after massive loss of life and property, with 150,000 people killed, 200,000 wounded and over one million displaced. The impact of war is still clearly evident in Lebanon today.

With the beginning of the Syrian civil war in 2011, more than one million Syrian refugees have entered Lebanon in droves, resulting in overpopulation and rising tensions. Many Lebanese fear the largely Sunni refugee population will overturn the current, precarious religious balance. As the refugees are not allowed to work legally they cannot provide for their daily needs. Many are squatting in insufficient housing and struggle to secure food. Many Syrian children do not attend school regularly and suffer trauma from the losses they experienced in Syria.

A president has not been selected since 2014 and today the government remains in an impasse severely debilitating the effectiveness of the government and resulting in protests over accumulated trash, daily electricity blackouts, water scarcity and endemic corruption.

ASK:

- That the church in Lebanon would not allow fears from the past or for their future to hinder their mercy and assistance to the need of Syrians and other refugees in their midst. Pray that the Lord would be revealed to Syrian refugees in Lebanon particularly through the local church. *Micah 6:8, Luke 6:35*
- For peace in Syria and the region. *Psalms 34:14*
- For wisdom and peace within the governing structures and between religious communities in Lebanon. For wise and just governing leaders that would seek the best of their citizens and not personal profit or power. *1 Timothy 2:1-3* 🌐



SRI LANKA



Unreached People Group:

VEDDA OF SRI LANKA

Population:	300
Primary Religion:	Animism
Language:	Vedda (extinct), Sinhala, Tamil

Background

The Vedda are Sri Lanka's indigenous inhabitants, self-named "Wanniya-laeto" (forest dwellers). They are directly descended from the original inhabitants of the island, dating earlier than 16,000 BC. The Vedda subscribe to a distinct worldview steeped in animistic religious traditions. For the past 25 years, Vedda survival as a people group has been threatened by waves of immigration and the eventual colonization of Sri Lanka. Vedda now must choose between assimilating into the dominant cultures of the island or retreating further into their shrinking forest habitat. Their indigenous language is now extinct and anthropologists expect this people group will soon disappear.

ASK... that God would reveal himself to the Vedda as El-roi, the God Who Sees. Despite their complete isolation and impending extinction, ask that God would honor and redeem this people group as part of his unique creation, and lead them into his kingdom through a saving revelation of Jesus Christ. (Genesis 16:13-14, Colossians 1:15-23)

Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon), a tiny island nation south of India in the Indian Ocean, is a rugged land of rainforest, diverse wildlife and endless beaches. It is famed for its ancient Buddhist ruins and heritage with some of the earliest Buddhist writings originating here in 29BC. Due to its strategic geographic location and deep harbors, it became an historical maritime hub and cultural melting pot. Sri Lanka is the oldest democracy in Asia, highly literate and currently one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Even so, it is a nation that has suffered much in the past generation. From the constant threat of the Sinhala-Tamil ethnic conflict, to the horrific 2004 tsunami and the civil war's bloody conclusion in 2009, more than 100,000 people have lost their lives, over 900,000 (mostly Tamils) fled or emigrated and more than one million were displaced. Twenty-five percent of the current population of 20 million are under the age of 15. About 70% of the population are Buddhist, but only 8% Christian. The Buddhist Nationalist Party continues to demand the government pass an anti-conversion bill limiting evangelism and conversion to Christianity, even though it has faced much opposition.

ASK:

- For a political culture that would usher in a new era of justice, freedom and peace in Sri Lanka. When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a ruler with discernment and knowledge maintains order. *Proverbs 28:2*
- For the people of the North and East of Sri Lanka who after years of ethnic conflict are experiencing peace, that they would see a sense of God's provision and healing for them. I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. *1 Timothy 2:1-5*
- That the Gospel would continue to penetrate all regions of Sri Lanka and the anti-conversion bill will not be made law. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*
- For unity in the Church so that the Church could be a prophetic voice to the nation. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. *John 17:22, 23* 